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Rise in COVID-19 cases

RT-PCR testing to resume from May 26

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah wearing a mask in the wake of recent COVID-19 outbreak in the State while receiving grievances from the public outside his T.K. Layout residence in city this morning.

Bengaluru / Mysuru, May 24 (RK,VNS & BCT)- With 35 active COVID-19 cases reported across Karnataka so far this year — 32 of them in Bengaluru — the State Government has urged citizens to proactively follow COVID-Appropriate Behaviour (CAB), even as health officials maintain that the situation remains under control.

State on high alert

35 active cases reported in Karnataka;

32 cases in Bengaluru alone; RT-PCR tests at all Medical College and District Hospitals

The current surge is attributed to the JN.1 variant, a descendant of the Omicron strain and its sub-lineages, LF.7 and NB.1.8.

To intensify surveillance, Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) testing will resume in the State including Mysuru from Monday (May 26).

(See COVID-19 CASES on page 7)

To Our Readers

Turn to Page-6 for Vikram Muthanna's 'In Black & White' titled "Flood of Thoughts." —Ed

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STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Saturday 24th May 2025

No power supply on May 25, 28

Mysuru, May 24 -As Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) will take up its quarterly maintenance works at Doddakere Maidan and Rajeevnagar Power Distribution Centres, there will be no power supply on May 25 and 28 between 10 am and 5.30 pm in the following areas:

Doddakere Maidan Power Distribution Centre: Ramanuja Road 1st to 9th Cross, Hosabandikeri, JSS Hospital, Agrahara, Basaveshwara Road, parts of Chamundipuram, Tyagaraja Road, Chamundi Hill and foothill, Gundurao Nagar, Datta Nagar, Muneshwara Nagar, Gowrishankar Nagar, Nanjangud Toll Gate, Tavarekere, Jockey Quarters, behind Race Course, Sub-Urban Bus Stand, Nazarbad, Ittigegud, surrounding areas of Mysuru Zoo, Government Guest House and surrounding areas, Taluk Office, D. Devaraj Urs Road, B.N. Road, Siddarathangar, Kurubarahalli, J.C. Nagar, K.C. Nagar, surrounding areas of JSS Ayurveda, areas around Mysore Palace, Sriharsha Road, Sayyaji Rao Road, Irwin Road and surrounding areas, Dhanvanthri Road and surrounding areas of Shivarampet.

On May 28

Rajeevnagar Power Distribution Centre: Rajeevnagar 2nd and 3 Stages, Christian Colony, Yasin Masjid, S. Layout, Suryanarayan Temple Road, Al-Badr Masjid Circle, Ambedkar Bhavan Road, Quba Masjid Circle, Narayana Hospital, Kamanakerehundi, KHB Layout, RTO East and surrounding areas, according to a press release from CESC Executive Engineer, N.R. Mohalla Division.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

VIRTUE, LOVE IN RAMAYANA: ***Love and affection backed by virtue and dharma will bring loftiness and excellence. Tiruvalluvar says love is the source of virtue for great deeds and helps overcome the evil done by others. As the sun burns the boneless worms, virtue torments the loveless ones*** *(kural 76 and 77).*

Lanka Jeyaraj said in a discourse that Ramayana portrays ample instances of virtue and love, which are corollaries to each other.

Rama went to see his mother Kousalya to inform her that he would become a hermit and go to the forest for 14 years, and Bharatha would be incarnated as ordered by his father. Kousalya told Rama that Bharatha would undoubtedly be three times better than Rama, which showed her highest esteem towards Bharatha. But what would happen to the tradition of incarnating the eldest son? She finally told Rama to uphold his father's words.

Lakshmana insisted on going to the forest with Rama. He went to see his mother Sumitra, and informed her of his plan. Sumitra told him that wherever Rama and Sita are hereafter, it is Ayodhya to you. She also said not to go as Rama's younger brother but as a devotee to render service to them and not to return from the forest if Rama and Sita had not returned. This is the genuine affection blended with the ethicalness that Sumitra showed towards Rama and Sita. If virtuous qualities deplete, it only shows that true love and affection also diminish. Love with righteousness will never create distress; only affection without nobility may wreak havoc.

A person without uprightness will automatically be trapped by the same in one way or another.

— In The Hindu

NEWS SPARKLERS

Woman brought in stretcher for bank verification

Oaxaca: A Mexican bank has been accused of lacking sensitivity after insisting that a bed-bound 96-year-old woman be brought physically to a branch to confirm her identity in order to release her pension.

Photos and video clips of an elderly woman being transported to a BBVA (Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria) bank branch in Oaxaca, Mexico, on an ambulance stretcher have been going viral on social media and sparking outrage among the general public.

96-year-old Fidelia Vásquez Nuño cannot move due to her advanced age and various illnesses, but despite her son's attempts to file the necessary paperwork with the bank to verify her identity, she had to be brought to a local branch to correct a glitch in her biometric registration that had prevented her from cashing her pension for six months.

This bird smells like cow manure

New York: The pheasant-like hoatzin is the only bird species that ferments its food, an unusual digestive system that also makes it the stinkiest bird in the world.

The hoatzin is a very strange bird. Native to the backwaters of the Amazon, its chicks are born with clawed wings, it is the last surviving member of an ancient bird line believed to have branched off on its own around 64 million years ago, and its diet consists only of plants, which is very odd for birds.

But this living oddity is most known for its strong manure-like smell, which has earned it the nickname 'stinkbird'. The hoatzin is the only known bird species with a foregut fermentation system similar to the one found in cows, which releases significant amounts of methane via constant burping. The smelly burps and particularly stinky droppings give the hoatzin its signature odour.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Apart from acting as a filter, kidneys also produce various hormones which regulate bodily functions. Renin is one such hormone which is responsible for high blood pressure.

By Dr. Vipin Kaverappa P.T. - Consultant – Nephrology, Manipal Hospital, Mysore

manipalhospitals
LIFE'S ON

**** Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature***

Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0 Outreach on May 27

Mysuru, May 24- The District Outreach Programme under Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0 will be conducted by Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), Regional Office, Mysuru, on May 27 from 9 am onwards at Shahi Exports Pvt Ltd. Unit 37, Plot No. 28, P1, Sy. No. 252P, Koorgalli Industrial Area, Belavadi Post, Mysuru; at Prashant Medical Services, B.S. Kakkilaya, 3rd Main, 3rd Cross, Nehru Nagar, near Rama Mandir, Mandya and at Dispensary cum Branch Office, ESI Corporation 11B, 1st Cross, Brahmarambha Extension, Chamarajanagar.

The Regional PF Office has, in a press release, requested its stakeholders like PF Members, Pensioners, Employers etc., to attend the programme for awareness, queries and information.

For details, contact the PRO on Ph: 0821-2599200/222 or e-mail: *ro.mysore@epfindia.gov.in* or visit Social Media Platform *(@epfomysore)* of the Regional PF Office, Mysuru.

WATER LEVEL

KRS DAM	KABINI DAM	HARANGI DAM
Maximum **124.80 feet**	Maximum **2,284 feet**	Maximum **2,859 feet**
Today's level **89.10 feet**	Today's level **2,260.45 feet**	Today's level **2,832.11 feet**
Last year's level **81.80 feet**	Last year's level **2,259.74 feet**	Last year's level **2,823.80 feet**
Yesterday's level **89.15 feet**	Yesterday's level **2,260.56 feet**	Yesterday's level **2,832.03 feet**
Today's Inflow **150 cusecs**	Today's Inflow **834 cusecs**	Today's Inflow **177 cusecs**
Today's Outflow **347 cusecs**	Today's Outflow **1,200 cusecs**	Today's Outflow **100 cusecs**

REALLY...?

- ***Turtles have bird-like beaks, no teeth.***
- ***Some Turtles live for over 100 years.***
- ***Most Turtles don't have very good hearing.***
- ***The Soviet Union once shot two tortoises into space.***
- ***Their ultimate ancestor lived during the permian period: Turtles have a deep evolutionary history that extends to a few million years before the Mesozoic Era, better known as the Age of Dinosaurs.***

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TODAY'S CURRENCY RATE

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 85.67
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 115.22
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 23.32
1 Euro	= Rs. 96.94

VOICE OF THE READER

Importance of Road Signages

Sir,

In April 2025 issue of *Indian Highways*, the critical role of road signage in controlling accidents was highlighted under the topic "No Compromise on Perfect Road Signs and Global Lessons." As a signatory to international road safety conventions, it is only appropriate that India aligns its standards with global norms.

It is rightly stated that road safety does not solely depend on quality of road construction or smoothness of its surface. Without accurate and well-placed signage and markings, even the best-engineered highways fall short of their full potential.

This underscores a larger issue: while a robust framework of standards exists, the gap lies in their effective implementation. It is not uncommon to encounter a cluttered array of over a dozen signs within a short stretch of road, often confusing drivers instead of guiding them, thereby disrupting the smooth flow of traffic.

I have urged the Indian Roads Congress (IRC) to issue specific guidelines on this important matter. At the same time, road users must also adhere strictly to traffic signs. It is high time a comprehensive research analysis is undertaken to determine optimal types, placements, and spacing of road signage for maximum clarity and effectiveness.

—H.R. Bapu Satyanarayana
Saraswathipuram 10.5.2025

Ban orders around exam centres

Mysuru, May 24- With the SSLC Exam-2 scheduled to take place from May 26 to June 2, at different centres across Mysuru, the city Police have clamped prohibitory orders in 200 mts. radius around all the centres on all days of the exam as a security measure.

Accordingly, barring the examinees and the exam staff, no other unauthorised person will be allowed entry to the exam centres and carrying of any objectionable articles around the centres is strictly banned.

Also, all the photocopy shops and browsing centres in the vicinity of the exam centres have been ordered to shut down on exam days, according to a press release by the Office of the City Police Commissioner.

Civil Services preliminary exam tomorrow

With the Civil Services preliminary exam-2025 scheduled to take place at 13 centres spread across Mysuru city tomorrow (May 25), the City Police have clamped prohibitory orders in 200 mts. radius around all the exam centres from 6 am to 6 pm on Sunday.

Anganwadi workers, helper posts

Mysuru, May 24- The Department of Women and Child Development has invited applications from eligible women candidates for appointment as Anganwadi worker (1 post) and Anganwadi helpers (14 posts) at Anganwadi centres in the city.

For more details, visit the Office of Mysuru City Child Development Officer, Balbhavan premises, Bannimantap, Mysuru or contact Ph: 0821-2491962.

Applications are also invited for appointment as Anganwadi workers (6 posts) and helpers (12 posts) at Anganwadi centres in Mysuru Rural (Taluk) areas.

For more details, visit Office of Mysuru Rural Child Development Officer, 1st Cross, K.D. Circle, Vijayanagar 2nd Stage, Mysuru or contact Ph: 0821-2567940. Candidates can apply through the website *https://karnemakaone.kar.nic.in/abcd*, before June 15.

Sree Kalanikethan celebrates 40th anniversary

Sree Kalanikethan, a popular saree showroom in Mysuru, celebrated its 40th anniversary yesterday. On the occasion, the showroom, which was located on Kalidasa Road in its initial days and then on the parallel Adipampa Road, shifted to a new location at #2342, 6th Main, 7th Cross, V.V. Mohalla, Mysuru. Picture shows Ralie Ganapathy** (third from left), **Executive Director of Academy Newspapers Pvt. Ltd., Publisher of** Star of Mysore **and** Mysuru Mithra, **who inaugurated the showroom, taking a look at a saree along with Krupa Sumanth of Impressionz, Asha Vinod, Revathi Reddy** (fourth from left), **Owner of Sree Kalanikethan and Kaveramma Seshadri, Head of Annapoorneshwari Vaidika Bhavana, Srirangapatna. Sanskrit Scholar Bhanuprakash Sharma was the special invitee. The showroom features Narayanpet Silk, Gadwal Silk, Venkatagiri Silk, Pochampalli Silk and Ikkat, Handloom Village Cotton, Maheshwari Sarees and Silk Cotton (Pattur) among others.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Staging of play

As part of Chaarumanjusha-6 programme, Chaaru Samskrutka Pratishtana, in association with Rangayana, Mysuru, has organised a play 'Ondu Kiruparichaya' by Sadhana Mahila Sangha, Karnataka, at Sriranga auditorium in Rangayana premises at 6.30 pm today (May 24). The play will also be staged tomorrow (May 25) at Chaaru Samskrutka Pratishtana premises at No. 208, SBM and Other Bank Employees Welfare Layout in city at 6.30 pm. The play, scripted by Dr. D. Saraswathi and directed by Deepak Srinivasan, is based on the life experiences of women workers of Bengaluru.

Free health camp

Vijayanagar Seva Trust and Narayana Hospital, Mysuru, have organised a free health camp on May 25 from 6.30 am to 10.30 am at MUDA Grounds in Vijaynagar 1st Stage. MLA K. Harishgowda will be the chief guest. Trust President S. Shankar will preside.

MUDA dissolved, MDA takes charge

Minimal role of Legislators in Mysuru urban planning in a bureaucrat-driven structure

Mysuru, May 24 (RK&BCT)- The State Government has officially dissolved the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA), and effective May 23, the Mysuru Development Authority (MDA) has come into existence.

The newly constituted Mysuru Development Authority (MDA) has been modelled on the lines of the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), significantly altering the structure and functioning of its predecessor, the MUDA.

Unlike the MUDA Board, which had as many as 14 Legislators as members, the MDA Act provides for the inclusion of only one MLA. This marks a major shift in the balance of power, from elected representatives to bureaucrats.

The MDA will be predominantly run by officials. Even technical experts, such as those specialising in Vastu, will be appointed directly by the Government, with no provision for elected representatives to influence appointments.

Under MUDA, meetings were convened only after seeking approval from influential elected

representatives, including MLAs and MLCs. In contrast, MDA meetings can now be called at the discretion of officials, significantly reducing the role of Legislators in decision-making.

Previously, MUDA agendas often reflected the personal and political interests of elected members. With officials now firmly in control of the MDA, such practices are expected to be curbed, signalling a shift towards a more bureaucratic and structured governance model.

Official notification

K. Latha, Under Secretary to the Government in the Urban Development Department (Development Authority and Urban Planning Services), issued an official notification yesterday confirming the development.

As per the Mysuru Development Authority Act, 2024, which comes into effect from May 23, 2025, the MUDA stands dissolved under Section 85(1) of the Act, with immediate effect, stated the notification.

The notification states that following the Governor's assent on May 13, 2025, the dissolution of MUDA was formalised under Section 85(1) of the Act. Following the decision taken during the Cabinet Meeting Item No. C.398/2025, the Government has issued a separate order operationalising the newly constituted Mysuru Development Authority.

Instructions have been issued to update all official materials, including signboards and letterheads, to reflect the new name — Mysuru Development Authority (MDA).

Following the receipt of the order, MDA Commissioner A.N. Raghunandan and Secretary P.G. Prasannakumar promptly initiated the renaming process. A temporary nameplate bearing the new designation was installed last evening and tenders will soon be invited for the installation of a permanent signboard.

Sans outsourced staff, chaos reigns inside MDA

94 outsourced staff sacked; 69 regular staff feel the burden; public services take a hit

Mysuru, May 24 (RK&BS)- Days after the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) was renamed as the Mysuru Development Authority (MDA), a major disruption has hit the functioning of the office due to the sudden removal of outsourced staff.

A total of 94 outsourced employees, comprising 'D' group staff, office assistants, drivers, data entry operators, electricians and gardeners, were relieved of their duties in the first week of May.

This action followed a directive from the Urban Development Department, which mandated prior approval from the State Finance Department before appointing outsourced personnel. The earlier outsourced employees were shown the door as MUDA reportedly violated hiring norms by taking in more than sanctioned number of staff.

Now, only 69 permanent employees remain, struggling to handle the core functions of the MDA. The sudden vacuum has affected the day-to-day activities of the office, leaving public services severely crippled and applications pending without timely disposal.

Crucial to the daily operations

Outsourced staff were crucial to the daily operations, performing essential duties such as uploading notes to the file disposal system, moving files between departments and maintaining cleanliness and logistics. With their removal, several departments remain either shut or barely functional until respective officers return from field inspections.

Key departments, including the offices of the MDA Chairman, Commissioner, Secretary, Superintending Engineer, Town Planning Member, Special Land Acquisition Officer (SLAO), two Executive Engineers (EEs), 10 Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs), Assistant Directors of Town Planning, the Accounts Officer, and two Special Tahsildars, are operating with skeletal staff. Branches such as Establishment, Auction, Record Room, Site, CA Site, Spandana and Drawing are practically deserted.

Internal complicity?

In some instances, officials are reportedly paying the outsourced staff out of their own pockets to ensure basic tasks like file typing and disposal continue — raising serious legal and ethical concerns. Despite this apparent violation of rules, higher authorities have remained silent, leading to speculation about internal complicity.

The absence of adequate staff has made it nearly impossible to address a host of public services including queries related to Lease-Cum-Sale Deeds, Title Deeds, Site Identification, document authentication, responses to Right To Information (RTI) applications and submission of documents to the Justice P.N. Desai One-Man Judicial Commission investigating the controversial 50:50 site allotment scam.

With mounting public grievances and a backlog of work, the urgent need for staffing solutions remains unaddressed — casting a shadow on the newly rechristened MDA's ability to serve the people.

IPL 2025

TODAY'S MATCH
MAY 24

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MAY 25

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YESTERDAY'S RESULT

SRH 231/6 (20 overs)
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Obituary

Muralidhar Rajpal

Mysuru, May 24- Muralidhar Rajpal (76), a retired swimming coach and a resident of Vijayanagar in city, passed away yesterday.

He leaves behind two daughters, a granddaughter and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were held at the foot of Chamundi Hill yesterday.

H.M. Shivanand

Sagara: H.M. Shivanand (70), retd. Professor of Commerce Department, BTCG College, Somwarpet, Kodagu and a part-time reporter of *Prajavani,* former President of Somwarpet Taluk Kannada Sahitya Parishat, passed away at his residence in Sagara, Shivamogga, this morning.

He leaves behind his wife, son Sachin (disciple of late Sarod Maestro Rajeev Taranath and a Chartered Accountant) and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were held at Sagara this afternoon.

Day Care Chemotherapy Centre starts functioning at District Hospital

- CM dedicates 16 Day Care Chemotherapy Centres across State virtually.
- Karnataka reports average of 70,000 cancer cases per year.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah enquiring the health condition of a patient at District Hospital on KRS Road in city yesterday, as Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, District Minister Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa, MLC Dr. Yathindra Siddaramaiah and others look on.

Mysuru, May 24 (SBD&BS)- Chief Minister Siddaramaiah formally inaugurated 16 District Day Care Chemotherapy Centres (DCCC) including the one at the District Hospital premises, at Metagalli on KRS road in city yesterday.

Siddaramaiah inaugurated the Centre at a ceremony organised by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat and Health and Family Welfare Department at the hospital premises, from where he virtually inaugurated the remaining 15 centres in other districts.

The Centre here, having 20 beds, has been set up in association with Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bengaluru. Siddaramaiah went around the facility and enquired the health of the patients.

Addressing the gathering, Siddaramaiah said, Karnataka stands second after Tamil Nadu in the country in cancer cases. On an average, 70,000 cancer cases are being diagnosed among people in the State in a year. Most of the patients had to go to Kidwai in Bengaluru for the treatment, which not all can afford. Even though the medicine is available for curing cancer, it comes with a high price, due to which, those who cannot afford, die in the later stage.

Considering the issues plaguing such cancer patients, the Day Care Chemotherapy Centres have been opened in 16 districts (barring Mysuru Centre having 20 beds, the other 15 centres have 10-beds). Though it had been announced in the State budget 2024-25, it was not possible to implement for some reasons in the same financial year. With the opening of these Centres, 60% of cancer patients can undergo Chemotherapy in their respective places, said Siddaramaiah.

District Minister Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, MLCs Dr. Yathindra Siddaramaiah and Dr. D. Thimmaiah, MLA K. Harishgowda, Karnataka Exhibition Authority Chairman Ayub Khan, National Health Mission Director Dr. Naveen Bhat, Deputy Commissioner G. Lakshmikanth Reddy and others were present.

Coaching for Railway ALP recruitment exam

Mysuru, May 24- The city's Netaji Education Foundation, located at No. 400, Krishna Vilas Road, Opposite Avila Convent, near Jaganmohan Palace, will be conducting coaching classes for recruitment to ALP (Assistant Loco Pilot) posts in Railways.

The classes will start at 10.30 am on May 25. For details, contact Mob: 63641 16745 or Ph: 0821- 3553964

MRI facility, NIMHANS unit next

Explaining further, CM Siddaramaiah said, to decentralise Bengaluru as the health hub in the State, steps are also being taken to provide adequate medical facilities at respective districts. With Mysuru having highest population after Bengaluru, all types of medical facilities required are being provided here.

Recently, the State Cabinet has approved Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) facility to be provided at the District Hospital here. As announced in the previous year budget, an unit of National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) will be established in the city. Besides, dialysis service is being provided to those suffering from kidney ailment at 240 centres in the State, added Siddaramaiah.

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83rd Birthday of
Pujya Sri. Ganapathy Sachchidananda Swamiji

26th Brahmotsava Festivities of Sri Datta Venkateshwara Kshetra and 27th Anniversary Festivities of Nada Mantapa

25.5.2025, Sunday:
8.00 am: Ganapathy Homa
6.00 pm: Inauguration of 83rd Birthday Celebrations of Parama Pujya Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda Swamiji and 26th Brahmotsava Festivities of Sri Datta Venkateshwara Kshetra
Divine Presence: Pujya Sri Datta Vijayananda Teertha Swamiji

26.5.2025, Monday: Birthday Celebration of Pujya Sri Swamiji
9.00 am: Pratyaksha Pada Puja to Parama Pujya Sri Swamiji
10.00 am: Chaitanya Archana – **Conferring of Datta Peetha titles:**
Veda Nidhi – Sri Vishnubhatla Lakshmi Narayana Ghanapathi
Shastra Nidhi – Dr. G.V.S. Dattatreya Murthy
Nada Nidhi – Pt. Vinayak Torvi
Nada Nidhi – Vid. Shashank Subramanyam
Natya Nidhi – Vidu. T.S. Sri Lakshmi
Asthana Shilpi – Sri Krishna Murthy
Jayalakshmi Puraskar – Smt. Gangavaram Vedavathi
Jayalakshmi Puraskar – Smt. Geeta Punjala
Datta Peetha Bandhu – Sri. Kamal Kapoor
Datta Peetha Bandhu – Sri Kanteti Srinivas
Datta Peetha Bandhu – Sri S. Nagaraja
Sasya Bandhu – Smt. Suchitha Reddy
3.00 pm: Carnatic Music program by Vidu. Gopika Purnima and Vid. Mallikarjun
6.00 pm: Inauguration of 27th Anniversary Festivities of Nada Mantapa by Parama Pujya Sri Shivaratri Deshikendra Mahaswamiji, Suttur Math, Suttur.
Divine Presence: Parama Pujya Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda Swamiji and Pujya Sri Datta Vijayananda Teertha Swamiji
7.00 pm: Carnatic vocal duet concert by Datta Peetha Asthana Vidushis Sarvepalli Sisters –Vidu. Dr. Sreya and Vidu. Dr. Raja Lakshmi

27.5.2025, Tuesday:
3.00 pm: Hindustani Music program by Vidu. Kalpana Sumanth Raghavendra
7.00 pm: Carnatic Vocal concert by Vid. Kunnakudi Balamurali Krishna

28.5.2025, Wednesday:
3.00 pm: Jugalbandi Music program by Vid. Peri Thyagaraju on Violin and Vid. Pramod Umapathi on Flute
7.00 pm: Carnatic Vocal concert by Vid. Sriram Jonnalagadda

29.5.2025, Thursday:
3.00 pm: Carnatic music program by Vid. Vikas Maitreya
7.00 pm: Rama Katha – Solo thematic Bharatanatyam by Vid. Sri Sathyanarayana Raju

30.5.2025, Friday:
3.00 pm: Carnatic music program by Vidu. Dr. Ramaprabha Yerramilli
7 00 pm: Teppotsava for Sri Datta Venkateshwara Swamy in Saptarshi Sarovara

31.5.2025, Saturday:
10.00 am: Distribution of Charities to Specially abled persons Donation of constructing a Room for Mysore Pinjarapole Society
7.00 pm: Special Instrumental ensemble led on Harmonium by Vid. Ravindra Gururaj Katoti

1.6.2025, Sunday:
7.00 am: Dattatreya, Mrutyunjaya and Ayushya Homa
9.00 am: Oudumbara Simhasana Adhirohanam and Samarpana by devotees
6.00 pm: Bhajans by Ashrama Bhajana Mandali

Daily Program: 8.00 am – Sri Chakra Puja, 3.00 pm and 7.00 pm – Music concerts

Venue: Nada Mantapa,
Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda Ashrama, Mysore -570025

26th Brahmotsava festivity programs being conducted at **Sri Datta Venkateshwara Kshetra** from 26th to 31st May 2025. Daily- 9.00 am – Homa, Puja etc., and 5.00 pm – Sri Datta Venkateshwaraswamy Vahanotsava

Temple office: Ph: 2483200 **ALL ARE INVITED**

IN BLACK & WHITE

Vikram Muthanna

Flood of Thoughts

More rain, no drain

Bengaluru flooded again. And nobody was surprised. While citizens waded through chest-deep water, leaders wasted no time in turning a tragedy they created into a theatre with photo ops and blame games.

In 2022, Siddaramaiah, then in Opposition, proclaimed, *"For the first time in Bengaluru's history, people have fled their homes in boats."* Oh! Really?

He had forgotten that in 2017, under his watch, the Bengaluru floods killed 16 people.

In 2022, Congress State President D.K. Shivakumar blamed encroachments and asked why the BJP hadn't cleared them.

But Congress was in power for five years before that. Why didn't they clear encroachments then? And now that they're back in power, what have they done to clear them? Nothing.

Back then, Congress even staged a protest. The BJP hit back, promising to *"investigate which political forces ensured lake encroachments."* The Congress promptly went silent and moved on to a *'Bharat Jodo Yatra'* when what we needed was a *'Bengaluru Bachao Andolan.'*

The tragedy of Karnataka is that there has not been an authentic Opposition party for some time. Congress, JD(S) and BJP are all *bhai-bhai* in their pursuit of riches by looting and destroying our cities.

What is shocking, though, is that while Bengaluru dies a slow death, our leaders are busy building their fiefdoms, literally.

Our CM and Dy.CM are not able to manage their own home districts, and they are off to building new cities!

Yesterday, Dy.CM changed the name of his district, Ramanagara, to Bengaluru South, and when critics doubted if it could be developed, he simply said, *"Let them wait and watch."*

It is an open secret that lands all over Ramanagara have been bought by this leader's associates, and now they want to develop it using public funds so their land value goes up?! Wah!

Similarly, our CM wants to build a new city near Mysuru called New Mysore! The present Mysuru itself is still struggling with failing infrastructure, disappearing lakes and destruction of green cover, and our CM is out to build a new Mysore? Wah! re Wah!

Where is the money to develop new cities? Are these politicians using our money to create new constituencies for their children? There is no hope for Karnataka as our leadership is visionless and we voters are hopeless.

'Flood Bhagya' Another guarantee

Bengaluru's annual flooding is not just a monsoon problem; it's an administrative failure. **Take Spice Garden Layout. Built near Bellandur Canal, it floods because the 6.5-km Raja Kaluve meant to drain rainwater into Varthur Lake has been encroached. If that single channel was left untouched, water would've flowed to Dakshina Pinakini River, and there would be no flooding.**

Bengaluru once boasted 1,000 lakes. Smart urban planning by Kempegowda and later Lt. Gen. Richard Sankey created a cascading lake system — rainwater would flow from higher lakes to lower ones via wide inlets, the Raja Kaluves, and finally into natural valleys like Challaghatta, Hebbal and Vrishabhavathi. This made sure Bengaluru had no water shortage or flooding issues. But…

Today? Bengaluru features on a UN list of cities likely to run out of drinking water by 2040. From 937 lakes listed in revenue maps, only 17 remain *"alive."* What happened?

The Government turned lakes into real estate. Yes, the Government. **Dharmambudhi Lake became the Majestic Bus Stand. Akkithimmanahalli Lake was flattened for a hockey stadium. Sampangi Lake became Kanteerava Stadium. And Koramangala Lake? That's now the National Games Village.**

Then, of course, many lakes were covered up with the covert approval of bureaucrats and politicians and given off to land developers.

Government apathy will guarantee that Bengaluru will flood for a long time to come. **Maybe the Congress can make it one of their guarantees — Flood Bhagya.**

Congress can also give another guarantee — flood-free Bengaluru? But they won't, they can't, because they are too busy building new cities for their children to rule over.

Mysuru, rise now, don't wait for water to rise

As Bengaluru sinks, Mysuru stands on the brink. Lake expert U.N. Ravikumar noted in 2019 that Mysuru had 106 lakes. 37 have vanished. Of the remaining 69, just 22 fall under Mysuru City Corporation limits — and there's no comprehensive plan to save even those.

Kukkarahalli Lake has been choked by encroachments. Jeevanna Rayana Katte is now J.K. Grounds. Subbarayana Kere is dry. Doddakere Maidan is a shadow of its former self. The water channels that fed these lakes have either been encroached upon or blocked. The swamp near Yelethota, a crucial water soaker? Sold to builders.

When drainage channels disappear, rainwater doesn't. It simply knocks on your front door.

The issue is that 60 percent of local Corporators and nearly half the State Cabinet have real estate links. With builders writing the blueprint of our cities, floodplains become parking lots and lakes become layouts.

At this rate, Bengalureans and Mysureans may need to add a coracle to their garage. But knowing our creative politicians, they might soon slap a coracle tax and demand a rowing licence too.

Karnataka isn't suffering from natural disasters, it's drowning in man-made apathy. If we had leaders who saw lakes as life savers rather than land banks, if we had voters who demanded civic amenities instead of freebies, we wouldn't be here ankle-deep in water and neck-deep in debt.

e-mail: vikram@starofmysore.com

CM gets a taste of Indira Canteen at Hinkal

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah along with Municipal Administration Minister Rahim Khan and Chamundeshwari MLA G.T. Devegowda, savouring breakfast after inaugurating Indira Canteen in Hinkal this morning, as District Minister Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa, MLAs Tanveer Sait, K. Harish-gowda and others look on. The breakfast menu at Indira Canteen for the day was — Bisi Bele bath, Puliyogare, Obbattu, with dessert and mixture.

KIADB clears garbage heaps, building debris

at Hebbal Industrial Area

BEFORE & AFTER: ***Garbage dumped on Sri Lakshmikantha Swamy Temple Road in Hebbal Industrial Area cleared.***

Mysuru, May 24 (VNS)- The officials of Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) took up the clearance of building debris and garbage that had been dumped all over the Hebbal Industrial Area (HIA) in the city. The works launched two days ago continued for the third day as well.

SOM impact

Star of Mysore had published an article on **May 15, 2025** titled **'Garbage Dump!'** highlighting the issues plaguing the Hebbal Industrial Area owing to indiscriminate dumping of solid waste. Following this article, KIADB took up the clearance work in the area.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, Mysuru Industries Association (MIA) General Secretary Suresh Kumar Jain thanked the *newspaper for* highlighting the issues and said that, mere clearance of the debris and garbage would not serve the purpose.

"The KIADB should install solar CCTV camera at various points in the industrial area for constant monitoring and stringent action must be initiated against those indiscriminately dumping garbage on the road side."

The waste segregation unit which was handed over to the Hootagalli City Municipal Council must be returned to KIADB to segregate waste generated from HIA. Suresh Kumar Jain also requested KIADB to install garbage bins at various vantage points for the people to dump waste.

BEFORE & AFTER: ***Building debris and garbage dumped on the service road of outer ring road in Hebbal cleared.***

Rise in COVID-19 cases

RT-PCR testing to resume from May 26

(Continued from page 1)

The Government will establish eight RT-PCR testing centres across the State, and COVID-19 testing will be conducted at all Medical College Hospitals and District Hospitals.

CM sports a mask

Meanwhile, in Mysuru, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah made a public appearance wearing a face mask this morning, signalling growing concerns at the highest level. The CM, who stayed overnight at his T.K. Layout residence, participated in the inauguration of the Indira Canteen at Hinkal and the Basava Jayanthi celebrations at Kalamandir.

This comes even as the State is expected to release updated COVID guidelines in the coming days. Even before an official directive, the CM has begun attending public functions wearing a mask.

Crowds gathered outside his residence to submit petitions and grievances. The Chief Minister accepted the petitions but did not address the media before departing.

Health advisory

The Department of Health and Family Welfare has advised the public to wear masks in crowded places, especially vulnerable groups such as pregnant women, children, the elderly and those with co-morbidities. People showing symptoms of Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) have been asked to get tested immediately to ensure timely treatment and prevent further spread.

The Health Department emphasised that these measures, though precautionary, are crucial in safeguarding public health and keeping the infection levels in check.

"Early detection is essential for timely treatment and to prevent further transmission of the virus. While the current case numbers are low, community cooperation is vital in curbing any potential resurgence of the virus," it stated.

A nine-month-old baby from Hosakote in Bengaluru Rural district tested positive on May 22 following a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT). The child, who is stable now, is currently undergoing treatment at Vani Vilas Hospital, Bengaluru, according to Principal Secretary of the Department, Harsha Gupta.

While officials confirmed that no COVID-related deaths have been reported so far, they noted a gradual increase in cases over the past 20 days, prompting renewed caution.

The advisory from the department reads: "Although the situation is well under control, a gradual increase in COVID cases has been observed. It is therefore appropriate that the general public comply with Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) proactively."

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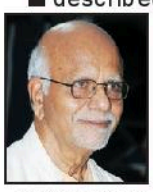
Centuries when Deccan was ruled only by Hindus

618 CE to 1054 CE

By K. Vijaya Kumar
Former Joint Director,
Information & Publicity



K. Vijaya Kumar

It is, indeed, a pleasure to review a book which is described as a critically acclaimed debut one. The author **Anirudh Kanisetti,** a history researcher and writer, currently works at the Museum of Arts and Photography. He shines a light into the darkness bringing alive for the lay-reader the early medieval Deccan, from the sixth century CE to the twelfth century CE, in all its splendour and riotous glory.

The 480-page book is so attractively produced and brought out with a beautiful coloured cover page titled *'Lords Of The Deccan — Southern India From The Chalukyas To The Cholas.'* About 100 pages containing notes, bibliography, acknowledgements and index speaks of the writer's indepth study of the reference works meticulously researched.

In his acknowledgements in January 2022, writer Anirudh says '*Lords of the Deccan*' has been three years in the making and it is true the long time taken proves the results of the hard study by him while readers go on reading this thrilling riveting account of South India.

The very first page is decorated with the following Sloka:

Aho! Katham Yetad Mayaa Krutam,

And to the generations who have shaped the world before us.

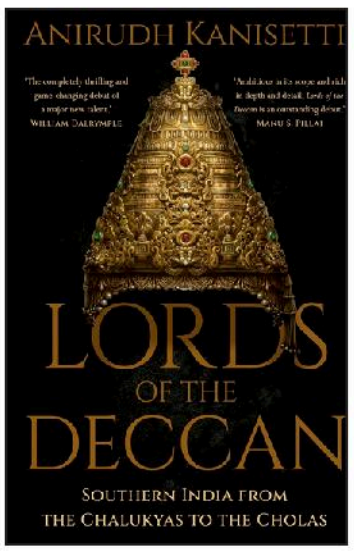
The book in three parts starts from Winter, 618 CE to Winter, 1054 CE:

Part One: *Dawn - The Rise of the Chalukyas*

Part Two: *Apogee - The World of the Rashtrakutas*

Part Three: *Twilight - The Kalyana Chalukyas and the Chola Empire.*

The periodical Indian maps indicating the core territories occupied and ruled and the temples built with artistic Gods images and architecture photos in innumerable numbers enhanced the value of the book for its preservation in public libraries as well as by history interested book-lovers.



Title: Lords Of The Deccan — Southern India From The Chalukyas To The Cholas
Author: Anirudh Kanisetti
Year: 2022
Pages: 480
Price: Rs. 799
Publisher: Juggernaut Books

Another interesting fact recorded how Kannada language has grown over this period though Sanskrit had its firm place.

It is recorded by the author in his introduction thus:

One Arab merchant, visiting this medieval superpower in the ninth-tenth centuries, mentioned the Lord of the Deccan in the same breath as the Abbasid Caliph, the Emperor of China, and the Byzantine Emperor. Another visited the glittering capital of the Deccan, Manyakheta, and left us with an account of its wonders:

...in that city there are for the ordinary people one million elephants which carry the merchandise... In this temple there are about twenty thousand idols made of a variety of precious metals and carved stones mounted with artistically-worked precious jewels... There is an idol whose height is twelve cubits and is placed on a throne of gold in the centre of a golden cupola, the whole of which is set with jewels like white pearl, ruby, sapphire, blue and emerald stone.

Both of these accounts — even allowing for some exaggeration — leave no doubt that

Author Anirudh Kanisetti

in the eyes of the medieval world, the Deccan was the wealthiest and most powerful of all the kingdoms of the Indian subcontinent.

This book is a story about this time when the Deccan ruled India: An epic journey through five hundred years of a history that has long been forgotten. The writer modestly tells that he does not claim that his narrative is definitive or the last word on the subject: this is, first and foremost, a work of popular history.

But, look at his dramatic commencement of the stormy story of the history:

"A terrible battle is about to unfold, and we must witness it. In our ears are the faint echoes of trumpets, horns and the roar of armies. Our time here in the twenty-first century is drawing to a close. Let us rush to medieval India, a world that is in some ways forgotten, but in many more ways a world that is all around us."

Now, let us listen how Anirudh Kanisetti, the writer concludes the telling of the history from Winter, 618 CE to Winter 1054 CE:

"This book has tried to tell it in a way that reveals something of the complicated individuals they were and allows a glimpse of the teeming, forgotten peoples — our distant ancestors — whom they ruled over. But all this is only one story, one narrative, one region, one period, one group of elite families. The immensity of medieval South India still looms over us, demanding that we continue to tell its stories and learn from its horrors and glories.

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kumarkv59@gmail.com

Brand Ambassador for Mysore Sandal Soap

MP Yaduveer slams State's deal with Tamannaah Bhatia

'Actress has no cultural or historical connection to Karnataka'

Tamannaah

Mysuru, May 24 (BCT) - Mysuru-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar has strongly objected to the Karnataka Government's decision to appoint actress Tamannaah Bhatia as the brand ambassador for the iconic Mysore Sandal Soap produced by Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KSDL).

Tamannaah Bhatia is the new brand ambassador for the soap brand for two years, and the deal is worth Rs. 6.20 crore. Calling the move "illogical and irresponsible," Yaduveer questioned the rationale behind choosing a non-Kannadiga actress who, he said, has no cultural or historical connection to Karnataka.

Mysore Soaps and Detergents Limited (MSDL), a Government undertaking founded in 1916 by the then Maharaja of Mysore, Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar, has long been a symbol of Kannada pride. The brand is operated by KSDL, a State-run enterprise.

"For over a century, this soap has been a household staple for Kannadigas. Appointing someone unfamiliar with Kannada heritage undermines the very identity of the brand," said the MP in a press release.

Yaduveer also criticised the

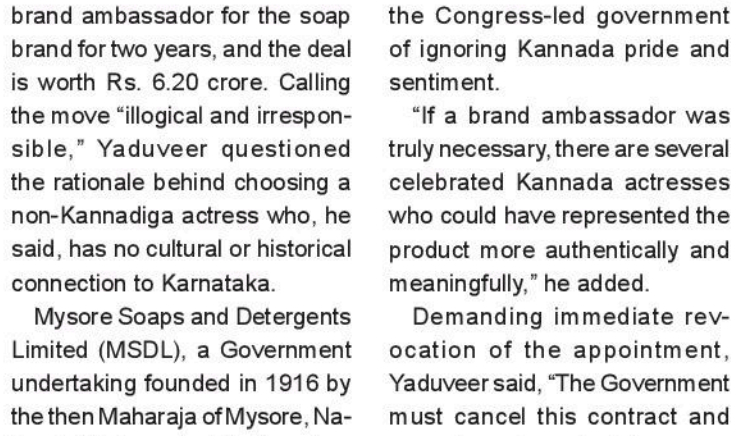
State Government for spending Rs. 6.2 crore on the endorsement deal with Tamannaah. "Why was this money not used to honour and promote talented Kannada artistes?" he asked, accusing the Congress-led government of ignoring Kannada pride and sentiment.

"If a brand ambassador was truly necessary, there are several celebrated Kannada actresses who could have represented the product more authentically and meaningfully," he added.

Demanding immediate revocation of the appointment, Yaduveer said, "The Government must cancel this contract and prevent wastage of public money. While it announces guarantee schemes worth thousands of crores, it has consistently failed to deliver. Now, it must stop prioritising non-Kannada actors over local talent."

The statement has sparked renewed debate over cultural representation and responsible spending by public sector institutions in Karnataka.

MP inaugurates new classrooms built by Round Table India



Mysuru, May 24 (VNS) - MP Yaduveer Wadiyar inaugurated the newly constructed school block at Government Higher Primary School in Yelwal by Round Table India (RTI) through Mysore Round Table - 21 (MRT-21).

The new school block consists of four classrooms under the 'Freedom Through Education' initiative of Round Table India.

The four classrooms would benefit more than 200 under-privileged children every year in the areas surrounding Yelwal.

Chamundeshwari MLA G.T. Devegowda, Mysuru Rural BEO M. Prakasha, Rotary Mysore President Rtn. N. Praveen, Ali Asgar M. Vagh of Pyramid Timbers, RTI National Projects Convenor Tr. Pravesh Jain, Area-13 Chairman Tr. Kumarpal M. Jain, Area-13 Secretary Tr. Suraj R. Krishnam, Mysore Ladies Circle-9 Chairperson Sanjana Nirmith, Tr. K.A. Mohanraj, Chairman, MRT - 21, Tr. Akshay Koneri, Vice-Chairman, Tr. K.S. Pavan, Secretary, Tr. M.S. Suhas, Treasurer, Tr. Nithin Purushotham, Project Convenor and others were present on the occasion.

Pratibha Puraskar for meritorious students

Mysuru, May 24- The programme for presenting Pratibha Puraskar for meritorious students, who have scored high marks in SSLC and PUC (2024-25), will be held under the aegis of J.S. Jagadish (ex-Corporator) Balaga at S.R. Subbarao Park in Niveditanagar on May 31 at 5 pm.

MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar will inaugurate the programme, while MLA G.T. Devegowda will preside. Former MP Prathap Simha and BJP OBC Morcha President Raghu R. Kauitlya will address the students. MLA T.S. Srivatsa, BJP City President L. Nagendra and Secretary of Vidya Vikas Educational Trust V. Kaveesh Gowda will be present on the occasion.

Grand procession marks Namma Basava Jayanti

A decorated sarot with a statue of Basaveshwara** (left) **and a mechanical elephant carrying a portrait of Basaveshwara** (right) **was part of the procession marking 'Namma Basava Jayanti-2025' celebrations.

Mysuru, May 24 (BLU&DM)- A grand and colourful procession marked the commencement of the two-day 'Namma Basava Jayanti-2025' celebrations, organised jointly by the Basava Balagagala Okkuta, Mysuru District Unit of Akhila Bharata Veerashaiva-Lingayat Mahasabha and Veerashaiva-Lingayat Associations, in city this morning.

The procession was launched after garlanding the statue of Basaveshwara near Gun House Circle in the heart of the city, in the presence of Suttur Mutt Seer Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji and a host of other Seers.

The procession passed through Sayyaji Rao Road, K.R. Circle, D. Devaraj Urs Road, JLB Road, Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa Circle (Metropole Circle) and Vinoba Road, and reached Kalamandira on Hunsur Road, where a stage programme was inaugurated by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

The procession was accompanied by a host of cultural and folk troupes including Nandi Dhwaja, Puja Kunita, Kamsale, Mangalavadya, Tamate, Nagaari etc.

The procession also featured a mechanical elephant carrying a portrait of Basaveshwara, an artfully decorated sarot in which a statue of Basaveshwara was taken and playing of music by English Band.

Several children, dressed as Basavanna and Akkamahadevi, stood in a tonga while a good number of women carried Purna Kumbha, which lent more colour to the procession, in which hundreds of people took part.

MLAs G.T. Devegowda and T.S. Srivatsa, Additional DC Dr. P. Shivaraju, Neelakanta Mutt Seer Sri Siddamalla Swamiji, Kuderu Mutt Seer Sri Gurushantha Swamiji, Kundur Mutt Seer Dr. Sri Sharathchandra Swamiji, JSS Mahavidyapeetha Executive Secretary Dr. C.G. Betsurmath, Mahasabha District President Hinkal Basavaraju, Basava Balagagala Okkuta President Byathahalli Nagaraj and Kannada activist Mugur Nanjundaswamy were present.

Foundation for Dakshina Ayodhya Sri Baalarama Mandira put off

Mysuru, May 24 (BLU&BS)- The ceremony to lay foundation stone for the construction of Dakshina Ayodhya Sri Baalarama Mandira (temple) at Harohalli-Gujjegowdanapura village in Mysuru, scheduled to be held yesterday, was suspended at the last minute, following the stiff opposition of various Dalit activists.

Harohalli-Gujjegowdanapura is the village from where the black schist stone for the carving of Balak Ram idol installed at Ayodhya Sri Ram temple in Uttar Pradesh, was sourced.

Baalarama Shilodbhava Kshetra Charitable Trust (BRSK), founded by H. Ramdas (in whose land, where one Srinivas Nataraj is running a quarry and the black schist stone was found) and Jayamma couple, as its Trustees, had taken the initiative to develop the place into a religious destination.

Udupi Pejawar Mutt Seer Sri Vishwaprasanna Theertha Swamij, MP Yaduveer Wadiyar, MLA G.T. Devegowda, sculptor Arun Yogiraj, RSS leader M. Venkatram and others were scheduled to take part in the ceremony.

Prior to the foundation laying ceremony, the religious rituals had begun, when a posse of Dalit activists, led by former Mayor R. Purushotham, arrived at the spot and took exception to the puja rituals.

They alleged that, this being the agricultural land allotted by the Government and owned by a Dalit, we won't object if any educational institution or a library is built at the same place. But, we won't allow any attempts to grab the land in the name of constructing a temple.

The activists warned of not allowing the temple to come up at any cost saying, "For several years, we had been kept in dark, by those worshipping Lord Ram. The literacy rate among Dalits has touched 75% against 5% literacy rate that existed earlier, which was possible due to the knowledge of law provided by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. How fair it would be, if we are pushed towards practicing superstitious beliefs again? asked Purushotham.

If any bid is made again to continue with the plans, the chief guests will be restrained from attending the ceremony, warned Purushotham, who along with fellow activists, damaged the flex boards related to the ceremony and raised slogans against the organisers.

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2	TGT	English, Kannada, Hindi, Mathematics, Science, Social Science, Music, PET (Male & Female)		
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Note: 1. Candidates are required to bring original testimonials in respect of their qualifications, experience and self-attested copies (one sets) of all such documents and one latest passport size photograph to be submitt upto 5 June 2025. 2. No TA/DA will be paid. 3. Eligibility criteria for various posts as available on the website of NESTS (https://nests.tribal.gov.in) will be applicable. 4. Final selection on basis of interview, experience and democlass. 5. Offline Screening test may be conducted to shortlist the candidates. 6. Selection will be purely contractual/part-time basis. 7. Remuneration @ Rs 320/Period (PGT), @ Rs. 300/Period (TGT) Maximum should be restricted upto Rs. 45000 (PGT), Rs. 42000 (TGT). 8. For more information call on **Ph. 0822-4200247 & 9871248685.**

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Three-day elephant census begins at Nagarahole

Mysuru, May 24 (MTY&BCT)- A comprehensive 3-day elephant census began yesterday at Nagarahole Tiger Reserve, aimed at mitigating rising human-elephant conflicts and establishing precise elephant population data.

The census is part of a synchronised effort across Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, with Forest officials from all three States undertaking simultaneous surveys in their respective regions.

At Nagarahole alone, more than 300 personnel have been deployed across 91 patrolling areas within the reserve, which spans the Mysuru and Kodagu districts and borders Kerala.

The initiative is a critical conservation move as incidents of human-elephant conflict, sometimes fatal, have increased in recent weeks.

Three-phase scientific census

The census is being conducted in eight zones of the Nagarahole Tiger Reserve — Hunsur, Veeranahosahalli, Metikuppe, Antharasanthe, D.B. Kuppe, Nagarahole, Kallahalli and Anechowkur. Each of the 91 patrol blocks has a three-member team tasked with executing the survey using three distinct scientific methods:

Day 1 - Block sampling (May 23): Teams walk 15 km across designated 5 sq. km forest blocks, recording direct sightings of elephants. Observers collect data on the number of males, females and calves and classify them by age — adult, sub-adult, juvenile and infant.

Day 2 - Line transect (May 24): Beginning at 6 am, surveyors walk 2-km transects, noting signs like dung and footprints along the path. These indicators help estimate elephant presence and density patterns.

Day 3 - Water hole count (May 25): Teams will remain stationed from 6 am to 6 pm at identified water bodies, documenting elephants that visit. Detailed observational records and photographs will be collected.

According to officials, the collected data will not only help estimate elephant density per square kilometre but also aid in analysing gender ratios, critical for long-term conservation planning and conflict mitigation.

Cross-State coordination

The census is being held in coordination with Forest Departments in Kerala and Tamil Nadu to ensure uniformity in data collection across elephant habitats.

Nagarahole, one of Karnataka's major wildlife reserves, houses a dense elephant population and functions as a key corridor for their movement, making the accuracy of this census vital.

Nagarahole Tiger Reserve Director P.A. Seema confirmed that the groundwork for the census has been thoroughly prepared and that at least one team member from each of the 91 zones has undergone online training for the exercise.

The scientific elephant census is expected to not only provide accurate figures but also shape future strategies to reduce man-animal conflict and strengthen elephant conservation in the region.

Harassment of T. Narasipur street vendors

Inspector faces flak at Lokayukta Meet

Mysuru, May 24 (VNS)- Discontent over the functioning of Town Police Inspector Dhananjay came to the fore at the Lokayukta public grievances meeting held at Guru Bhavan at T. Narasipur yesterday, with several political leaders accusing the officer of harassing street vendors and neglecting law and order.

Former City Municipal Council (CMC) President S. Madanraj levelled a series of allegations against Inspector Dhananjay, claiming that the officer had been verbally abusing vendors and evicting them unscientifically, thereby disrupting their livelihood.

"The CMC has collected Rs. 12 lakh in taxes from street vendors, yet they are not allowed to run their business. This harassment by the Police, combined with tax collection, is placing an unbearable burden on poor families who depend on daily income," said Madanraj.

"The Police, instead of looking at the law and order situation, which has worsened in the town, have been concentrating on troubling the street vendors." He warned that if the harassment is not stopped and if the Inspector does not change his approach, a three-day bandh will be observed in T. Narasipur.

Supporting the concern, Sosale Shivakumar criticised the Lokayukta for failing to follow up on earlier complaints. "Each time, complaints are submitted, but there is never any information about follow-up action," he remarked. The officials, however, did not offer a satisfactory response and asked Shivakumar to take his seat.

Lokayukta Dy.SP Venkatesh, in his address, directed that Gram Panchayats must display working hours and staff must report on time. He also instructed that employees declare any cash in their possession at work and Taluk Panchayat Executive Officers must conduct regular reviews. Action will be taken against those who fail to comply, he warned.

The Lokayukta received 25 complaints during the meeting. Among those present were farmer leaders Mahadevaswamy and Raju Gowda, Tahsildar T.J. Suresh Achar, BEO Shivamurthy and CMC Chief Officer B.K. Vasanthakumari and General Hospital Administrative Officer Dr. Ravikumar.

CAVA's Annual Art Exhibition to conclude tomorrow

Mysuru, May 24 (OSR)- Renowned art director Shashidhar Adapa inaugurated the three-day Annual Art Exhibition of Chamarajendra Government College of Visual Arts (CAVA) at the college premises in Siddarthanagar yesterday. The expo, organised by 'Kunchakavya Samskrutika Samiti' of CAVA, will be held between 10.30 am and 6 pm today and tomorrow.

In his address, Shashidhar Adapa said, "Artists can transform society only when they shed selfishness. Artists are often hesitant by nature but they must overcome this and express themselves boldly." He stressed that in today's competitive world, even quality products require an aesthetic appeal. "Artists must develop strong communication skills — in both visual and written forms — and leadership qualities to truly make an impact," he added.

CAVA Dean A. Devaraju, speaking at the event, said, "CAVA is a place where people breathe art. Its influence is not limited to Karnataka; it resonates across the country. Among the country's art institutions, CAVA stands out for the creative freedom it offers and students must take full advantage of this."

CAVA Administrative Officer Nirmala Mathapati, Academic Co-ordinator & Graphics Dept. Head A.P. Chandrashekar, Samiti Secretary Skanda R. Bharadwaj and Deputy Secretary Hemanth were among those present.

MOVIE LOVERS

NOW SHOWING - SINGLE SCREEN THEATRES

- **Padma Theatre** **Ph: 2521923**
  Maaman (Ta) - 4 Shows
- **Lido Theatre** **Ph: 2420885**
  Yuddhakaanda Chapter 2 (K) - 4 Shows
- **Prabha Theatre** **Mob: 98454-14691**
  Bhagiratha (K) - 4 Shows
- **Woodlands Theatre** **Ph: 2422871**
  Ace (Ta) - 4 Shows
- **Mahadeshwara Theatre** **Mob: 99008-20093**
  Kirik (K) - 4 Shows
- **Sangam Theatre** **Ph: 2520494**
  Cyanide - 2006 (K) - 4 Shows
- **Gayathri Theatre** **Ph: 2443568**
  Kuladalli Keelyavudo (K) - 4 Shows
- **Rajkamal Theatre** **Ph: 2423554**
  Devil's Double Next Level (Ta) - 4 Shows
- **Balaji Theatre** **Mob: 98863-25207**
  Dhadkan (H) - 3 Shows

DRC CINEMAS — Ph: 4240422, 4241800

Final Destination Bloodlines (E)	(S-1)	10.40 am, 7.30 pm
	(S-4)	2 pm, 4.30 pm
Kuladalli Keel Yavudo (K)	(S-1)	1.05 pm
Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning (E)	(S-1)	4 pm
	(S-4)	10.35 am, 7 pm, 10.25 pm
Narivetta (Ma)	(S-1)	10 pm
Lilo and Stitch (E-3D)	(S-2)	11 am, 4.35 pm
Ace (Ta)	(S-2)	1.25 pm, 10.15 pm
Dhadkan (H)	(S-2)	7 pm
Manku Thimmana Kagga (K)	(S-3)	11.10 am
Bhool Chuk Maaf (H)	(S-3)	1.35 pm, 7.35 pm
Kesari Veer (H)	(S-3)	4.10 pm
Detective Ujjwalan (Ma)	(S-3)	10.10 pm

MYSURU VISION CINEMAS — Ph: 0821 - 2973519

Jai Kissan (K)	:	1 pm
Yuddhakaanda Chapter 2 (K)	:	1.20 pm
		7.30 pm
Thudarum (Ma)	:	7:30 pm

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Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning (H)	:	9.45 am
Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning (E)	:	10 am, 12.45 pm, 4.10 pm
		6.40 pm, 10.20 pm
Lilo & Stitch (E-3D)	:	10 am, 12.30 pm, 5.30, 8 pm
Final Destination Bloodlines (E)	:	10.15 am, 1.15 pm, 3 pm, 10.30
Bhool Chuk Maaf (H)	:	10.20 am, 1.30 pm, 4.10 pm
		7.40 pm, 10 pm
Ace (Ta)	:	10.25 am, 1 pm, 6.50 pm, 9.30
Shinchan: Our Dinosaur Diary (H)	:	1.35 pm
Narivetta (H)	:	3.45 pm
Narivetta (Ma)	:	7.15 pm
Tourist Family (Ta)	:	3.55 pm
Kapkapiii (H)	:	4.15 pm
Raid 2 (H)	:	6.35 pm
Detective Ujjwalan (Ma)	:	10.10 pm
Kesari Veer (H)	:	10.10 pm

1st Floor, Garuda Mall. Mob: 88009 00009

Ace (Ta)	:	10.20 am, 4.10 pm
		7.20 pm, 10.30 pm
Bhool Chuk Maaf (H)	:	10.20 am, 1.30 pm, 4.30 pm
		7.10 pm, 9.50 pm
Lilo & Stitch (E-3D)	:	11 am, 1.30 pm, 4 pm 10 pm
Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning (E)	:	1 pm, 6.30 pm
Cyanide (2006) (K)	:	1.50 pm
Final Destination Bloodlines (E)	:	4.15 pm
United Kingdom of Kerala (UKOK) (Ma)	:	6.45 pm
Narivetta (H)	:	9.30 pm

EVENTS TODAY (MAY 24)

- **Nadavidyalaya:** 'Krishna-Kuchela' Bharatanatyam dance-drama by Vidu. Harshitha Subramanya and Vidu. Moulya Venkatesh accompanied by Guru Vidu. Mithra Naveen on Nattuvanga, Vid. M.S. Naveen on vocal, Vid. Nithish Ammanayya on flute and Vid. G.S. Nagaraj on mridanga; Sri Brahmachari Soumya Rupa Krishna Prabhu, Member of Executive Committee, ISKCON, Mysuru, H. R. Sundareshan, President of Ganabharathi and Natyacharya Prof. K. Ramamurthy Rao, Director of Noopura Kalavidaru Samskruthika Trust, Mysuru, chief guests, Veene Seshanna Bhavana, Ganabharathi premises, Kuvempunagar, **5.30 pm.**
- **Institution of Engineers-India (IEI), Mysuru Local Centre:** Technical Talk on 'Clean Energy' by Prof. S. Srikantaswamy, former Director, College Development Council, University of Mysore, Professor (retd.), Materials Science and Environmental Science and Dean, Cauvery Group of Institutions, Mysuru, Dr. R. Deepu, Chairman, IEI Mysuru, presides, S.P. Bhat Hall, IEI premises, JLB Road, **6 pm.**
- **Sri Krishna Ganasabha:** Govindarao and Ramabai Memorial Music Concert by Vidu. Ila Sangeeta, accompanied by Vid. Vaibhav Ramani on violin, Vid. Anirudh Srinivas Bhat on mridanga and Vid. Sunaad Anoor on kanjira, RamaGovinda Rangamandira, Ramakrishnanagar, **6 pm.**
- **Sri Nadabrahma Sangeetha Sabha:** Veena Gana Sambhrama - MJS Memorial Concert by Prof. N. Ananthanarayanan from Chennai, Vid. A. Radhesh on mridanga & Vidu. Sukanya Ramgopal on ghata, Sabha premises, JLB Road, **6 pm.**
- **National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO), Mysuru:** NAREDCO Awards 2025, MP Yaduveer Wadiyar, NAREDCO National President C. Haribabuji, CESC MD K.M. Munigopal Raju and former MLC D. Madegowda guest of honour, Golden Landmark Hotel, KRS Road, **6.30 pm.**
- **Chaaru Samskrutika Pratishtana, Mysuru:** Chaarumanjusha-6, staging of play 'Ondu Kiruparichaya' by Sadhana Mahila Sangha, Karnataka, written by D. Saraswathi and directed by Deepak Srinivasan, Sriranga Auditorium, Rangayana premises, **6.30 pm.**
- **Sri Srinivasa Swamy Temple, Tilak Nagar:** Sri Srinivasa Swamy Annual Celebrations, Sherti Seve, Tiruppavade Seve, Temple premises, **7 pm.**
- **Avadhoota Datta Peetham:** 4k Projection Mapping on 45-ft tall Karya Siddhi Hanuman statue, Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda (SGS) Ashram, Dattanagar, Nanjangud Road, **(3 Shows) 7.10 pm, 7.40 pm and 8.10 pm.** [Note: If rain or wind persists shows will be cancelled]

EVENTS TOMORROW (MAY 25)

- **Shree Pet Hospital:** Inauguration of the Hospital, Vijayanagar 4th Stage, 2nd Phase, **8 am to 11 am.**
- **Horticulture Department:** Mango and Jackfruit Mela, Kuppanna Park, **9 am to 9 pm.**
- **PSSM and Vishwamitra Light Foundation:** Mega vegetarian awareness rally under the guidance of Brahmarshi Pitamaha Patriji (as part of 108 simultaneous rallies), from Dasappa Circle to Hardinge Circle, **10 am to 1 pm.**
- **Bharatiya Jain Sangathan, Mysuru Chapter:** 'Vidyadaan - Gift A Knowledge' programme, free text book (old) distribution camp for students of 11th & 12th Std., 1st, 2nd, 3rd year degree and students of CA, CS, CAT, NEET, COMEDK and MBBS, Sri Terapanth Sabha Bhavan, Vani Vilas Road, near Siddappa Square, **10 am to 1 pm.**
- **Vismaya Balaga, Mysuru:** Vismaya 25 Belli Beragu, inauguration of Art Exhibition by wildlife photographers duo Krupakar-Senani, **10 am;** Vismaya Sahitya Preeti - Suttur Seer Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji, Srirangapatna Chandravana Ashram's Sri Trinetra Mahanta Shivayogi Swamiji, MM Hills Sri Salut Brihanmutt's Dr. Sri Shantamallikarjuana Swamiji, Sri Kundur Mutt's Dr Sharathchandra Swamiji and Swarna Nrisimha Datta Sai Peetika Seva Trust's Sri Arjuna Avadhoota Maharaja Guruji will grace the occasion, District Minister Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa inaugurates, senior writer Dr. Narahalli Balasubramanya presides; writer and filmmaker Dr. Nagathihalli Chandrashekar releases books of 'Belli Beragu' series, MP Yaduveer Wadiyar guest of honour, **10.30 am;** Vismaya Madhyama Preeti - Journalist Ravindra Bhat presides, *Star of Mysore* and *Mysuru Mithra* Founder-Editor K.B. Ganapathy launches Vismaya India YouTube Channel, **12 noon;** Vismaya Samaja Preeti - MLA G.T. Devegowda presides, **2.30 pm;** Vismaya Dharmika Preeti - Sri Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji of Sri Adichunchanagiri Mutt and Swami Muktidanandaji of Sri Ramakrishna Ashram will grace the occasion, Mandya District Minister N. Cheluvarayaswamy presides, **4.30 pm;** Vismaya Kala Preeti - Cultural Programmes, actor-director T.S. Nagabharana presides, KSOU Convocation Hall, **7 pm.**
- **Kunchakavya Samskrutika Samiti, CAVA:** Annual Art Exhibition, **10.30 am to 6 pm;** Valedictory, sculptor Shantamani Madaiah delivers valedictory address, former CAVA Dean Vijay Rao chief guest, CAVA Dean A. Devaraju presides, CAVA Administrative Officer Nirmala Mathapati and Academic Co-ordinator and Head of Graphics Department A.P. Chandrashekar will be present, CAVA premises, **4.30 pm.**
- **Abhivruddhi:** Silk India-2025 saree exhibition, Nanjaraja Bahadur Choultry, Vinoba Road, **10.30 am to 8.30 pm.**
- **Kalasuruchi:** Sahitya Chavadi, Journalist and noted orator Suryaprakash Pandit delivers a talk on 'Puranagala Vivechane' ('Contemplating on Myths'), Suruchi Rangamane, Chitrabhanu Road, Kuvempunagar, **10.30 am.**
- **Books & Brews Library:** Wrap It with Love: A Storytelling & Upcycling Workshop (Children will learn how to make beautiful book covers using old clothes; They'll hear heart-warming stories about kindness, gifting and the power of hand-made treasures), Books & Brews Library, Gokulam, **11.30 am.**
- **Sri Nadabrahma Sangeetha Sabha:** 'Navagraha Namana - Navagraha Kritis of Dikshitar' commemorating Nadajyoti Sri Muthuswami Dikshitar's 250th Birth Anniversary, musical presentation by 'Shankarabharanam' troupe of Nadabrahma Vid. S. Shankar. Commentary by Dr. Manoj, well-known multilingual Oriental Research Scholar, Sabha premises, JLB Road, **5.30 pm.**
- **Chaaru Samskrutika Pratishtana, Mysuru:** Chaarumanjusha-6, staging of play 'Ondu Kiruparichaya' by Sadhana Mahila Sangha, Karnataka, written by D. Saraswathi and directed by Deepak Srinivasan, Pratishtana premises, SBM and Other Bank Employees Welfare Layout, **6.30 pm.**
- **Rangayana:** Theatre Music Programme and Contemporary Dance, Bhoomigeeta, Rangayana premises, **6.30 pm.**
- **Avadhoota Datta Peetham:** 4k Projection Mapping on 45-ft tall Karya Siddhi Hanuman statue, Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda (SGS) Ashram, Dattanagar, Nanjangud Road, **(3 Shows) 7.10 pm, 7.40 pm and 8.10 pm.**

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Bhool Chuk Maaf (H)	:	10 am, 1 pm, 4.10 pm
		7.20 pm, 10.20 pm
Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning (E)	:	10.05 am, 12.40 pm, 6.50, 10 pm
Lilo & Stitch (E-3D)	:	12.25 pm, 5.30 pm, 10.30 pm
Cyanide (2006) (K)	:	2.55 pm
Ace (Ta)	:	4.05 pm, 10.10 pm
HIT: The Third Case (K)	:	4.05 pm
Narivetta (Ma)	:	7.15 pm

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Lilo & Stitch (E-3D)	:	9.55 am, 2.55 pm, 7.40 pm
Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning (E)	:	10 am, 4.10 pm, 10.20 pm
Bhool Chuk Maaf (H)	:	10.10 am, 1.30 pm, 7.40, 10.10 pm
Ace (Ta)	:	10.15 am, 12.50 pm, 7.20 pm
Final Destination Bloodlines (E)	:	12.25 pm
Kuladalli Keelyavudo (K)	:	1.25 pm
Kesari Veer (H)	:	4 pm
Narivetta (Ma)	:	4.20 pm, 10.30 pm
Manku Thimmana Kagga (K)	:	5.25 pm
Detective Ujjwalan (Ma)	:	7.10 pm
Azadi (Ma)	:	9.50 pm

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